



XI<sup>TH</sup> EDITION

***MACE MUN 2025***

***Letter from the Executive Board***

## Letter from the Executive Board

Dear Esteemed Delegates, Aspiring Diplomats, and Overenthusiastic Motion Raisers,

Welcome to MACE MUN 2025's UNHRC committee! Over the next three days, you'll be debating human rights, engaging in diplomatic alliances that may or may not backfire, and figuring out how to survive on coffee and adrenaline.

Your agenda:

"Ensuring Fair and Enforceable Human Rights Accountability: Reforming the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) to Prevent Bias, Non-Compliance, and Political Selectivity."

Let's be honest, the UPR is currently more or less your average placement interview—countries come in, say all the right things, nod enthusiastically, and leave, knowing very well they aren't going to follow any of it. Some nations even get their friends to give them good feedback, while others get grilled just for existing. At this rate, UNHRC's efforts are starting to look like a desperate attempt to hold people accountable—"*Vida-matte?*" as Shobana would say in *Manichithrathazhu*, because this time, we are not letting countries escape accountability so easily and this is exactly why we have this particular agenda for this committee.

When the eb was discussing possible agendas we were sure that this thought provoking one is the way to go as this one combines the best of all worlds.

### **Introduction to the Committee: UNHRC – The Watchdog Without Teeth**

The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) is the global human rights watchdog. Sounds intimidating, right? In reality, it's like a strict schoolteacher who can only scold students but can't give detentions.

Established in 2006, the UNHRC has 47 elected member states responsible for investigating human rights violations and recommending action. But here's the catch:

- It can't enforce laws. Imagine a Panchayat President in a Sathyan Anthikkad movie—full of idealism but no real power. Every time it tries to act tough, it just ends up asking, "*Beedi undo saghave, oru theepetti edukkan?*"—a very confused, mentally fried state where all we have is tongue slips and every member nation is hoping someone else takes the next step.
- It can't impose sanctions. The UN Security Council (UNSC) handles that, and we all know how that goes.
- It can't send in troops. It's more about writing reports than taking action.

So while it has all the right intentions, without proper reforms, it remains a well-meaning but powerless entity—just like that one teacher who always threatens to cut marks but never actually does it.

## **The Agenda: UPR – The World's Most Useless Peer Review System?**

What is the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)?

The UPR is supposed to be a system where every country gets a fair review of its human rights record every 4.5 years.

Sounds fair, right? But in reality, it's like a college exam where students grade themselves.

- Some give themselves full marks, even if they barely attended class.
- Some get unfairly failed because the teacher just doesn't like them.
- Some just skip the exam altogether and still get promoted.

It's almost like Mohanlal in *Chithram*—showing up, convincing everyone that he's perfect, making people feel guilty for questioning him, and then disappearing when it's time to face reality. And when someone finally calls them out, they act innocent and ask, "*Enne kollathirikkan pattuo? Illa alle?*"

### **Key Issues to Discuss**

- How do we make the UPR actually enforceable?
- Should non-compliant countries face real consequences?
- How do we remove political bias from the review process?
- Should AI and data analytics be used to track human rights violations?
- Can independent experts review countries instead of politicians?
- Should human rights abusers be allowed to review other nations?

At this point, the debate will start looking like a Panchayat meeting in *Sandesham*—lots of passionate speeches, but when it comes to actually taking action, everyone conveniently avoids responsibility. The moment a major country is questioned, expect their allies to jump in and defend them with a "*Polandiney patti nee oraksharam mindaruthu! Enikkathu ishtalla.*"

### **Resources to Prepare**

- UNHRC Reports – If you want to sound smart, quote from them.
- Your Country's Stance – Don't embarrass yourself by contradicting your own policies.
- News Sources – Stick to Reuters, or other sources at your own risk (Valid but not binding). No, WhatsApp forwards do not count.
- Previous UPR Reviews – To see who's actually following the rules.

Not preparing properly is like Mukesh in *In Harihar Nagar* trying to impress a girl—you'll get exposed very fast. The last thing you want is for another delegate to turn to you and say, "*Vattanalley?*"

## **QARMA (Questions a Resolution Must Address)**

1. How can the UPR be made fair and unbiased?
2. Should there be penalties for countries that ignore UPR recommendations?
3. Can independent organizations oversee human rights reviews instead of states?
4. Should countries with bad human rights records be banned from reviewing others?
5. Can AI be used to detect human rights violations?
6. Should financial incentives be introduced for countries that comply with UPR?
7. How can we stop powerful nations from influencing the review process?
8. Can regional human rights bodies play a greater role?
9. Should the UPR be legally binding?
10. How can media transparency improve UPR effectiveness?

At this stage, expect committee chaos—a mix of genuine solutions and last-minute desperate attempts to sound intellectual. It's going to feel exactly like the climax of a Priyadarshan movie—people running around, shouting things, but only those with a solid plan actually making a difference. And when, after hours of arguing, a resolution finally makes sense, someone will sigh in relief, "*Ippo sheriyakithara... ippo sheriyakithara...*"

## **Conclusion: Time to Take Action**

This is your chance to fix a broken system. The UPR needs to be fair, objective, and actually effective. If not, it will keep being the diplomatic equivalent of a malfunctioning ATM—giving out receipts but not dispensing actual solutions.

Imagine if Thilakan's character in *Kireedam* was the UNHRC. Full of hope, wanting justice, but constantly ignored by those in power. The moment UNHRC finally decides to call out violators, they start making excuses—just like that legendary Thilakan moment, "*Kathi thazhe idada! Nintachanaada parayunney, kathi thazhe idada!*"

Now, go forth and MUN like a legend. Let's make UNHRC less of a formality and more of a force for real change.